

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 11-12 are pending in the present application.

Reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

The claims are believed to be allowable for the reasons set forth herein. Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Comments

Claim 1 is amended to recite that each of layer a) and layer b) are aqueous layers.

The Office has maintained the position that the prior art teaches simultaneous wet-on-wet coating and applicant has maintained, and continues to maintain, the opposing position.

As set forth in the Official Action mailed April 1, 2005 the Office relies on the fact that coating "*simultaneously* in a wet-on-wet fashion instead of drying each layer before applying the next layer with the expectation of providing the desired not disturbed innermost ink-receiving layer since the outermost ink-receiving layer is solvent based while the innermost ink-receiving layer is water based". (page 6 first full paragraph)

Claim 1, as amended, specifically recites coating a first aqueous layer onto a second aqueous layer. Clearly an aqueous layer coated on another aqueous layer would be expected to disturb the lower level since the expectations set forth by the Office are no longer relevant. Claim 1, and claims depending therefrom, are contrary to the expectations of one skilled in the art as recited by the Office.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekiguchi (US 6,485,812) in view of JP 63101463.

The combination of Sekiguchi and JP '463 fails to teach simultaneously coating wet-on-wet layers. Alternatively, the combination of Sekiguchi and JP'463 teaches against the simultaneous wet-on-wet coating of two aqueous layers. The rejection is therefore improper and withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Claims 4-6 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekiguchi in view of JP 63101463 and further in view of Cousin et. al. (US 4,554,181).

The combination of Sekiguchi and JP '463 fails to teach simultaneously coating wet-on-wet layers. Alternatively, the combination of Sekiguchi and JP'463 teaches against the simultaneous wet-on-wet coating of two aqueous layers. Cousins et al. fails to mitigate the deficiencies of the primary references. The rejection is therefore improper and withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekiguchi in view of JP 63101463 further in view of Cousin et al. as applied above, and further in view of Rabasco.

The combination of Sekiguchi and JP '463 fails to teach simultaneously coating wet-on-wet layers. Alternatively, the combination of Sekiguchi and JP'463 teaches against the simultaneous wet-on-wet coating of two aqueous layers. Cousins et al. in view of Rabasco fails to mitigate the deficiencies of the primary references. The rejection is therefore improper and withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekiguchi in view of JP 63101463 in view of Cousin et al., and further in view of Malhotra et al.

The combination of Sekiguchi and JP '463 fails to teach simultaneously coating wet-on-wet layers. Alternatively, the combination of Sekiguchi and JP'463 teaches against the simultaneous wet-on-wet coating of two aqueous layers. Cousins et al. in further view of Malhotra et al. fails to mitigate the deficiencies of the primary references. The rejection is therefore improper and withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekiguchi in view of JP 63101463, further in view of Van den Zegel.

The combination of Sekiguchi and JP '463 fails to teach simultaneously coating wet-on-wet layers. Alternatively, the combination of Sekiguchi and JP'463 teaches against the simultaneous wet-on-wet coating of two aqueous layers. Van den Zegel fails to mitigate the deficiencies of the primary references. The rejection is therefore improper and withdrawal is respectfully requested.

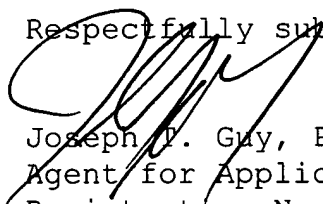
The rejections are overcome by amendment and arguments. Passage to allowance is respectfully requested. Alternatively, Applicants respectfully request that the amendments and comments

be entered to place the application into better condition for appeal.

CONCLUSIONS

Claims 1-9 and 11-12 are pending in the present application. All claims are in condition for allowance. Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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